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holders freely so that they may not suffer by the reduction in the rice content. It is not possible to assure the same quantum of rice throughout when there are adverse natural circumstances operating against the movement of rice. In addition to this, the position has been further complicated by the cyclone which hit the coastal districts of Madras State. However, arrangements have been made to supply as much rice as possible to Nilgiris so that full quantum of 1,200 grams per adult per week may be supplied to the card holders shortly. Nilgiris is also a millet eating district. Adequate quantities of millet including Milo have been supplied to the district. Thus there is no reason for anxiety over the food situation in the Nilgiris District.

(2) Damages caused to crops and houses in Thanjavur district due to floods.

திரு. கோ. சி. மணி : தலைவர் அவர்களே, தஞ்சை மாவட்டத்தில் சென்ற மாதம் 17-ம் தேதியிலிருந்து 20-ம் தேதி வரையில் பெய்த பெரு மழையினால், குறிப்பாகத் தஞ்சை மாவட்டத்தில் பெரும் பகுதிகளில் பழவாறு வெள்ளத்தினால் பல பகுதிகளில் உடைப்பு எடுத்ததை காரணத்தினால் என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் ஏறத்தாழ 32 கிராமங்களில் 3,000 ஏக்கர் சம்பாப் பயிர், குறுவைப் பயிர் நாசமாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அப்படிப்பட்ட கிராமங்களில் உள்ள விவசாயிகள் குறுகிய காலப் பயிர் செய்ய வசதி இல்லாமலும், உர வசதி இல்லாமலும் இது வரையில் காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களுக்குக் குறுகிய காலப் பயிர் செய்ய வசதிகளையும், மற்றும் உரம் முதலியவற்றை வழங்குவதற்கும் ஆவன செய்ய உடனடி உதவி நடவடிக்கைகளை மேற்கொள்ளும் அவசியம் குறித்த அவசரப் பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த விஷயத்தைக் கனம் உள்துறை அமைச்சர் அவர்களின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்.

The Hon. Sri P. KAKKAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a survey of the areas affected has been made already. Though originally about 20,000 acres were estimated to have been submerged, it has now been finally assessed that the area of Kuruvai totally damaged will only be about 200 acres. In the rest of the area, the damage is slight. On the whole, due to the heavy rain received at the time of flowering, the yield of Kuruvai might, it is expected, be reduced by 5 per cent of what it would otherwise have been.

In respect of Samba crop as against 10,000 acres estimated to have been submerged, the crop in about 2,000 acres was damaged. Subsequently re-sowing in some areas and gap filling in the remaining area has been done and the damage has been repaired.

Regarding Taladi crop, there was some loss of seedlings in the nursery. Fresh seedlings were arranged to be supplied for these areas and short-term paddy seeds were also supplied and the demand was fully met. This year, special arrangements had

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been made to supply short-term seeds for Thaladi in view of the delay in Kuruvai transplantation and a total quantity of 700 tonnes of short term seed has been distributed in Thanjavur district.

There is no need to supply seeds or fertilisers at subsidised rates considering that the overall damage is proportionally very small.

Regarding damage to houses and crops reported in a few villages in Kumbakonam division, they are all between Manniar and Palavar. There were three breaches in the Palavar and crops got submerged. The total area in these villages was 1,700 acres of Kuruvai and 3,500 acres of Samba. Out of 1,700 acres under Kuruvai, 850 acres were under ADT.27 and the balance was under other departmental strains. There has been a reduction in yield of about 10 per cent in the case of ADT 27. In the case of other strains there has been about 50 per cent reduction in yield. It may be pointed out that in ADT 27 crop general reduction in yield over the area affected by heavy rains is only about 5 per cent whereas it is about 50 per cent in other strains. There was no serious damage due to sand casting. As for Samba, total replanting was necessary in about 20 acres, partial replanting in 50 acres and gap filling in some more areas. The large bulk of the crop was, therefore, undamaged.

Samba seedlings were made available for gap filling, and replanting in the areas affected. The nursery for Thaladi faced the maximum damage about 40 acres having been completely lost. One and a half tonnes of short term paddy seeds have already been distributed and there is sufficient stock on hand. There is no need to subsidise the distribution of seeds and fertilisers. Application of a dose of fertiliser will improve the Samba crop in general now and there is also an adequate stock of fertilisers now.

In this connection, it may be stated that ADT 27 paddy raised this year in about 2 lakhs of acres of which 1 lakh of acres have been harvested already, has yielded an average 3,700 lb. per acre.

(3) Destruction of potato crops in the Nilgiris district due to heavy rains.

Sri T. Karcha Gowder: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Home to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the serious situation prevailing in the Nilgiris district owing to the heavy and continuous rains for the past two months, causing complete destruction of potato crops cultivated in 14,000 acres by the pest called 'Late Blight' and the consequent necessity to afford relief measures to the potato growers in that district.